

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing compression, comprising:

5 receiving a previous flow at a decompressor, the previous packet flow associated with a context identifier;

determining that a previous inactive time of the previous flow has exceeded an expiration period;

10 establishing that the context identifier has expired;

receiving a compressed packet associated with the context identifier, the compressed packet received in the place of a full header packet corresponding to the context identifier; and

15 establishing that the full header packet is lost in response to receiving the compressed packet.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the context identifier is assigned to the flow by determining at a compressor that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period.

20

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining at a compressor that the previous  
inactive time of the previous flow associated with the  
context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum  
5 allowed inactivity period;

establishing that the context identifier is  
available;

assigning the context identifier to the flow in  
response to establishing that the context identifier is  
10 available; and

sending the flow to the decompressor.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining at a compressor that the previous  
15 inactive time of the previous flow associated with the  
context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum  
allowed inactivity period, the previous inactive time  
exceeding the previous maximum allowed inactivity period  
prior to exceeding the expiration period; and

20 establishing that the context identifier is  
available.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

establishing that the context identifier is  
25 available;

assigning the context identifier to the flow;

appending the full header corresponding to the  
context identifier to the flow; and

sending the flow to the decompressor.

6. A system for performing compression, comprising:

a buffer of a decompressor operable to receive a previous flow, the previous flow associated with a context identifier; and

a processor coupled to the buffer and operable to:

determine that a previous inactive time of the previous flow has exceeded an expiration period;

establish that the context identifier has expired;

receive a compressed packet associated with the context identifier, the compressed packet received in the place of a full header packet corresponding to the context identifier; and

establish that the full header packet is lost in response to receiving the compressed packet.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the context identifier is assigned to the flow by determining at a compressor that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period.

8. The system of Claim 6, further comprising a compressor operable to:

determine that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period;

5

establish that the context identifier is available;

assign the context identifier to the flow in response to establishing that the context identifier is available; and

10

send the flow to the decompressor.

9. The system of Claim 6, further comprising a compressor operable to:

determine that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period, the previous inactive time exceeding the previous maximum allowed inactivity period prior to exceeding the expiration period; and

15

20

establish that the context identifier is available.

10. The system of Claim 6, further comprising a compressor operable to:

establish that the context identifier is available;

25

assign the context identifier to the flow;

append the full header corresponding to the context identifier to the flow; and

send the flow to the decompressor.

11. Logic for performing compression, the logic embodied in a medium and operable to:

receive a previous flow at a decompressor, the previous flow associated with a context identifier;

5       determine that a previous inactive time of the previous flow has exceeded an expiration period;

establish that the context identifier has expired;

10       receive a compressed packet associated with the context identifier, the compressed packet received in the place of a full header packet corresponding to the context identifier; and

establish that the full header packet is lost in response to receiving the compressed packet.

15       12. The logic of Claim 11, wherein the context identifier is assigned to the flow by determining at a compressor that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period.

20

13. The logic of Claim 11, further operable to:

25       determine at a compressor that the previous inactive time of the previous flow associated with the context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period;

establish that the context identifier is available;

assign the context identifier to the flow in response to establishing that the context identifier is available; and

30       send the flow to the decompressor.

14. The logic of Claim 11, further operable to:

determine at a compressor that the previous inactive  
time of the previous flow associated with the context  
identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed  
5 inactivity period, the previous inactive time exceeding  
the previous maximum allowed inactivity period prior to  
exceeding the expiration period; and

establish that the context identifier is available.

10 15. The logic of Claim 11, further operable to:

establish that the context identifier is available;

assign the context identifier to the flow;

append the full header corresponding to the context  
identifier to the flow; and

15 send the flow to the decompressor.

16. A system for performing compression,  
comprising:

5 means for receiving a previous flow at a  
decompressor, the previous flow associated with a context  
identifier;

means for determining that a previous inactive time  
of the previous flow has exceeded an expiration period;

means for establishing that the context identifier  
has expired;

10 means for receiving a compressed packet associated  
with the context identifier, the compressed packet  
received in the place of a full header packet  
corresponding to the context identifier; and

15 means for establishing that the full header packet  
is lost in response to receiving the compressed packet.

17. A method for performing compression, comprising:

determining at a compressor that a previous inactive time of a previous flow associated with a context identifier has exceeded a previous maximum allowed inactivity period;

establishing that the context identifier is available;

assigning the context identifier to a flow in response to establishing that the context identifier is available; and

appending a full header corresponding to the context identifier to the flow;

sending the flow to a decompressor;

determining at the decompressor that the previous inactive time of the previous flow has exceeded an expiration period, the previous inactive time exceeding the previous maximum allowed inactivity period prior to exceeding the expiration period;

establishing that the context identifier has expired;

receiving a compressed packet associated with the context identifier, the compressed packet received in the place of the full header packet corresponding to the context identifier; and

establishing that the full header packet is lost in response to receiving the compressed packet.